

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Since 1 October 1951 military preparedness has been a mandatory subject for study at all Czechoslovak universities. It is required for all first and second year students, optional for women and senior students. The aim of the course is to provide a trained cadre of reserve officers who have not attended the normal military academies.
2. Each university faculty deals with a different military subject, as follows:
 - Philosophical faculty - tank detachments
 - Medical faculty - military medical training
 - Economic faculty - support and supply services
 - Legal faculty - infantry and tank units
 - Scientific faculty - tank detachments
 - Engineering faculty - tank and artillery units
3. The military cadres are commanded by lieutenant colonels and colonels. Political lectures are given by officers who are members of the various faculties. The students are subject to the same military oath taken by regular soldiers. The most minor security violation is promptly punished.
4. Military preparedness courses are divided into theoretical and practical parts. Students are divided into two companies for lectures and field exercises. The first company, made up of first year students, is about 200 men strong. The second company, of second year students, has between 200 and 250 members. 1/ There are four to six platoons in each company; within the platoons, squads of eight to ten men are organized. Student commanders of these units are members of the Czech Communist Party. Command rotates every month or two.
5. Supposedly eight hours of lectures are given weekly. Actually about 20 hours are given, though, since military preparedness is considered to be the chief course in the curriculum. An encampment takes place during the 14-day winter holidays and one during the two-month summer vacation.

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The lectures are divided into the following subjects:

- military regulations
- quartermaster corps regulations
- preparatory course in marksmanship
- tactics
- engineering preparation
- protection against chemical warfare
- terrain

The greatest emphasis is placed on marksmanship, tactics and the quartermaster courses; these are also the longest. They are given personally by the cadre officers (sic).

7. Lectures and training are always oriented towards war against the United States. Tactical exercises emphasize American tactics, squad and platoon methods, etc. Cadre officers openly stated that the Korean war is necessary to test American methods of combat.
8. Many hours are spent on quartermaster regulations for military camps. Aerial action against the camps is stressed. According to the regulations, the camps are not to consist of large, tall buildings because of losses to bombers. The current recommendation is a new type of construction called the "military city". This consists of many low buildings, dispersed but within one camp. Previously, camps were built in the center of towns. Now, however, they are built on the outskirts of cities where good anti-aircraft protection can be afforded. The lower buildings are recommended because they are more easily camouflaged.
9. Course notes are taken in notebooks which have numbered pages; the pages are not removable. Students are forbidden to take the notebooks out of the classrooms. A security officer is always present at the lectures to ensure that students do not take notes other than those put in the notebook. The books are collected after each lecture and turned over to the cadre officers. This precludes the possibility of students' studying the material at home; all studying must be done in the military auditorium under the supervision of a cadre officer.
10. No student is excused from the course; illness can excuse a student only from the training exercises, not from lectures. Even students who have completed their normal term of military service are not excluded from the courses, nor are military academy graduates.

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25X1 1/ [] Comment: [] these are presumably the sizes of companies within one faculty at Charles University. It is also possible that much of the information in the report has specific application only to the course at Charles.

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